

Aloha from Senator Clayton Hee's office!

We are now about half way through the 2005 Legislative Session and my staff and I have been busy working with constituents, conducting hearings and working on the matters dealing with the Senate Committee on Higher Education.

This session, I introduced over 60 bills on issues ranging from education to transportation. The bills and actions related to supporting the Kaneohe to Kahuku area are highlighted in this newsletter. To view the status and/or text of the bills, go to <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>, click on Bill Status & Documents and enter the bill number in.



Kane'ohe/Kahalu'u/Kahana Valley

SB 1401 Making an Appropriation for Medical Services on Oahu – Appropriates funds to provide emergency ambulance services for Kaneohe-Kahaluu. (Did not pass due to cost consideration.)

SB 1409 Relating to Kahana Valley - Provides for additional families to reside in Kahana valley state park by lease agreements, and establishes an advisory committee to, among other things, monitor compliance with the agreements. (Currently alive and transmitted to House for further action.)



Principal Cynthia Chun and Brigham Young University Hawai'i Honored on Senate Floor

In February, Senator Hee had the privilege of honoring Principal Cynthia Chun and Brigham Young University on the Senate Floor.

Chun, the Principal at Gov. Samuel Wilder King Intermediate School was named Kane'ohe Neighborhood Board's Citizen of the Year. Chun was recognized for her efforts in dealing with a deteriorating campus and preparing Kane'ohe's youth for high school.

Brigham Young University Hawai'i celebrated their 50th Anniversary in February 2005. BYU is noted for it's academics, athletics and it's international diversity. President Eric Shumway, along with several representatives from the university accepted the Senate Certificate.

Congratulations to all!

Senator Hee and representatives from BYUH on the Senate floor.

Mahalo to Principal Jean Davidson and the students of Waiahole Elementary School for their beautiful drawings which decorate the Senator's office at the Capitol.

Principal Davidson brought 12 colorful drawings framed with each students' name along with four of the student artists to our office. Senator Hee presented each student and Waiahole Elementary School with a Senate Certificate in appreciation and recognition for their work.

We receive compliments daily from visitors on how wonderful the drawings are.



Capital Improvements

I have recommended funds for the following projects:

Ka'a'awa Elementary School – New Cafeteria and Administration Building (\$9.5 million)
Kahalu'u Elementary School – Electrical and Telecommunications Upgrade (\$800,000)
Hau'ula Elementary School - Electrical and Telecommunications Upgrade (\$800,000)
Waiahole Elementary School - Electrical and Telecommunications Upgrade (\$800,000)
Kahuku High/Intermediate School - Demolish Portable Sprung Structure and construct a New Portable Classroom (\$250,000)
Kahekili Highway – Environmental Impact Study to improve traffic congestion (\$300,000)
KEY Project Grant In Aid – Renovation of kitchen and establish a computer learning center (\$135,000).

Gov. Samuel Wilder King Intermediate School

SB 1405 Relating to Schools - Requires the department of education to conduct asbestos tests prior to renovations or painting of school facilities at King Intermediate. Appropriates funds for asbestos testing of King Intermediate school students. (Deferred by the Senate Committee on Education.)

Kahuku Ag Theft Bill

SB 1588 Relating to Agricultural Theft - Establishes that possession by any person of agricultural commodities, products, and livestock without the proper certificates is prima facie evidence that these items were stolen. Includes theft of agricultural commodities and products that exceed 25 pounds within theft in the second degree if the person enters agricultural lands that are enclosed with a fence or posted with warning signs. (Currently alive and transmitted to House for further action.)

Higher Education Incentive

The Senate Committee on Higher Education recommended that \$12 million be included in the University of Hawaii's biennium budget to provide low income students with full scholarship to any campus within the University of Hawaii system.

This program is being called the "B Plus Scholarship Program" since to be eligible, students must have: qualified for the State Department of Education's Free and Reduced Lunch program and graduate from a Hawaii public high school with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (a 'B' average) or better. "It's that simple" said Senator Hee. "Education is the key to every aspect of improving one's life. So many young people are held back by the thought that no matter how hard they try in school, college is not a reality for them. We want Hawaii's youth to know from this day forward that regardless of their family's income, they will have an opportunity to go on to higher education."

Also included in the Senate Committee on Higher Education's budget was \$1.3 million for Windward Community College.